



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/066,519  
Filing Date: January 31, 2002  
Applicant: Walters et al.  
Group Art Unit: 3732  
Examiner: Anu Ramana  
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MANIPULATING A  
FLEXIBLE STRAND AND SOFT TISSUE REPLACEMENT  
DURING SURGERY  
Attorney Docket: 5490-000269

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Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed October 20, 2004, please amend the application as follows and consider the remarks set forth below.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 13 of this paper.